

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9780

S E C R E T ATHENS 5658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GR, US, MARR

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY

REF: STATE 176590

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS APPROPRIATE

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL I CONTACTED DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S OFFICE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY. I WAS INFORMED THAT AVEROFF WAS NOT AVAILABLE TODAY--UNLESS THERE WAS AN OVERRIDING EMERGENCY--AND THAT HIS SCHEDULE WAS SO FULL IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW TO ARRANGE THE APPOINTMENT FOR LATER IN THE WEEK. WE HAVE MADE A TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT FOR THURSDAY MORNING JULY 31, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING IT UP SOMEWHAT EARLIER IF TIME BECOMES AVAILABLE.

2. COMMENT: I DID NOT WANT TO INSIST TODAY THAT APPOINTMENT BE GRANTED IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE OF OTHER HIGHLY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HERE. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT TRIALS IN GREECE'S MODERN HISTORY IS BEGINNING THIS MORNING IN ATHENS WITH 21 FORMER HIGH RANKING ARMY OFFICERS--INCLUDING EX-DICTATOR PAPADOPOULOS--BEING CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON. ALL ATTENTION IN GREECE IS FOCUSED ON THIS TRIAL, WHICH IS TAKING

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PLACE UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY IN THE KORYDALLOS PRISON.

IN ADDITION, I KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT AVEROFF IS ALSO HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND OTHERS AS FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TODAY AND TOMORROW FOR CARAMANLIS' TRIP TO HELSINKI TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND MANY TOP EUROPEAN LEADERS BEGINNING WEDNESDAY.

3. DEPENDING ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS HERE TODAY AND TOMORROW, I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH AVEROFF'S OFFICE AND ENSURE THAT I MEET WITH HIM AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE TIME TO DISCUSS THE HIGHLY IMPORTANT SUBJECT COVERED IN REFTTEL, FOLLOWING WHICH I SHALL SEND A FURTHER REPORT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, SUPPLIES, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750259-0857
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750714/aaaaamji.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 176590
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY
TAGS: MILI, MARR, GR, US, (PAPADOPOULOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006